

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

9. (Previously presented) A sleeve extending in a lengthwise direction for joining and sealing conduits, comprising:

a core of the sleeve having an inner surface and an outer surface;

a first layer bonded to the inner surface of said core; and

a second layer bonded to the outer surface of said core, wherein said second layer is a material having a lower coefficient of friction than said first layer,

wherein at least one of said first and second layers is comprised a non-bias material, said non-bias material comprised of wrap fibers extending in the lengthwise direction and fill fibers extending perpendicular to the wrap fibers.

10. (Previously presented) The sleeve of Claim 9 wherein said first and second layers are comprised of the non-bias material.

11. (Previously presented) The sleeve of claim 9, wherein said first layer is an elastomer-coated fabric layer.

12. (Previously presented) The sleeve of claim 9, wherein said first layer and said second layer are longer than said core, such that said first layer and said second layer may be bonded together beyond an end of said core.

13. (Previously presented) The sleeve of claim 9, further comprising a third layer bonded to said second layer proximate a medial portion of the sleeve.

14. (Previously presented) The sleeve of claim 9, wherein said core may be made of a plastic foam.

15. (Previously presented) The sleeve of claim 9, wherein said core may be made of an elastomeric foam.